

Use Truth to Win Air Pollution Battle

File
Columbia Falls
news clipping

In the Flathead the campaign to reduce fluorides from the Anaconda Aluminum Co. plant and achieve better control of lumber mill smoke will be successful by citizens being interested and rational.

It's obvious that Anaconda Aluminum Co. plant fumes have killed hundreds of trees on and near Teakettle Mountain.

Conclusive test results will be available shortly as to what is destroying Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir in and near Columbia Falls city limits. Fluorides are indicated.

Economic factor that provides components of a law suit are tests to decide what is yellowing the 50,000 Scotch pine and 30,000 Douglas fir at the Snowline Tree Co. plantation across the Flathead River from Columbia Falls High School.

Ben Wake, director of Montana's air pollution control division, is studying the Flathead situation. So is University of Montana based research.

What will hinder the campaign to achieve cleaner air are false charges.

For example, while the AAC plant is polluting air, its sewage facilities have been termed excellent by state authorities. No harm has come to the

Flathead River. There is some concern about ground waters, but no indication as yet of a problem.

Charges that Anaconda Aluminum Co. and its personnel are oblivious to the pollution problem is ridiculous.

Pollution control has been a concern since plant construction started here in 1952-53. Millions of dollars have been spent, obviously not enough.

An Anaconda fault that dates back to old ACM days is to ignore and deny, but not inform the public. Purchasing more than 2,000 acres is not pollution control, but an admission of the problem.

Citizens who want clean air include AAC employees. People live in the Flathead because it is a green valley.

A company that employs over 1,000 men and has an \$8,500,000 annual payroll in a county with 35,000 residents has friends, and many families dependent on its operation.

Rash charges against AAC and the mills will create adverse reaction that will hamper efforts for pollution control. The problem is serious, and it is a battle that can be won by an interested public using the truth.

HUNGRY HORSE NEWS, FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1969

Comments On Plant Fluorides

To the editor:

How do I explain to the numerous nesting birds in the ponderosa pines on my property that due to the great advances of our top scientists in producing aluminum, the birds will have to seek new territory for raising their young?

In the interest of honesty and integrity, would the officials of the Anaconda Co. agree to post large billboards along our highways informing visitors to our area as to the cause of thousands of dying trees?

In addition to the large sums of money that the Anaconda plant will want to pay as compensation to individual property owners for the loss of their trees, what measures are being taken to immediately stop further pollution here in our valley?

What investigations are in process by either government officials or the Anaconda Co. as to the harmful effects to humans by the fluoride poisons pouring into our rivers and into the air we all must breath?

In the interest of protecting property values here in Columbia Falls, what suggestions do other property owners have for stopping further poison destruction in our community

that could result in losses amounting to many thousands of dollars?

Dr. and Mrs. Conrad P. Reslock,
Columbia Falls

The Reslocks own a home on the Flathead River near the Red Bridge. He is a physician, who practiced in Wisconsin, they are spending the summer here.

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